

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Claims 14 and 18-21 are pending in the application, with claim 14 being the sole independent claim. No new matter has been added.

Based on the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In section 3 of the Office Action, claims 14, and 18-21 were rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2002/0144284 A1 to Burroughs et al. ("Burroughs") in view of International Publication No. WO 01/17167 to Hebsgaard et al. ("Hebsgaard"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Differences exist between the cited references and the claimed embodiments of the present invention. For example, independent claim 14 recites:

a filter for receiving a bandwidth allocation message from a first communication device or a second communication device, wherein said filter processes authorization instructions to authenticate said bandwidth allocation message, wherein said filter includes a primary filter for receiving a bandwidth allocation message produced by the first communications device; and a secondary filter for receiving a bandwidth allocation message from the second communications device, wherein the second communications device is linked to the first communications device over a slave interface.

The cited references do not teach or suggest these features of independent claim 14.

FIG. 3 of Burroughs, which the Examiner appears to rely on to teach or suggest features of independent claim 14, shows a cable modem 300 including a receiver 301, a transmitter 303, and a processor 305.

The Examiner appears to allege that receiver 301 is a filter, as recited in independent claim 1. Applicants respectfully disagree. As understood by those skilled in the relevant art(s), a filter is a component that filters inputs so that certain inputs are received while other inputs are blocked. For example, Applicants' specification states that "primary filter 308 and slave filter 312 both contain registers [that] enable the filters to decide whether to accept or reject MAP messages." See paragraph [0058] of the published Application. In contrast, Burroughs does not teach or suggest receiver 301 having filtering features. Therefore, Burroughs does not teach or suggest a filter as recited in independent claim 14. Thus, the Burroughs does not teach or suggest all elements of independent claim 14.

Furthermore, Applicants assert that Hebsgaard does not provide the teachings that are missing from Burroughs.

Moreover, Applicants assert that claims 18-21, which depend from independent claim 14, are also patentable over Burroughs and Hebsgaard, alone or in any combination, for at least reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to independent claim 14 and further in view of their own respective features.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 14 and 18-21.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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